

**THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
CLEVELAND 6, OHIO**

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PAINTING OF THE MONTH...

"La Capeline Rouge, Madame Monet"

by Claude Monet, 1840-1926

Mme. Camille Monet was calm-dispositioned and very much-liked. She shared nine years of poverty and struggle with her artist-husband and had two children, one of whom was only four when she died in 1879. She had served as model for numerous portraits done, not only by her husband, but by some of the other impressionists such as Renoir, Sisley and Pissarro.

This particular portrait, much published in art books and owned since 1958 by The Cleveland Museum of Art, is a fairly early one, executed between 1870 and 1875. At that time impressionistic work was scorned and ridiculed, but within twenty years the style had become accepted and Monet was looked upon as a prominent artist.

The painting is muted-toned and occasionally accented with bright color. In it, Monet is experimenting with the stylistic techniques of impressionism, pursuing the effects of light and broken brush work. He is also experimenting with composition and has deliberately placed his wife behind the window, an influence of the off-center symmetry and odd space divisions he found in Japanese prints. If CAPELINE ROUGE, with its scant attention to detail, is compared to the Museum's earliest Monet, SPRING FLOWERS, done ten years before, one can see the vast change that had occurred in Monet's style. He had gone from realism to illusionism.

The painting first belonged to the Monets' son, Michel, and it remained in the family for many years. It then was bought by Captain E. Molyneux of Paris and was last purchased by Leonard C. Hanna, Jr. in whose home it hung for ten years before being bequeathed to the Museum where it is now on display in Gallery 9. The Museum owns five other Monet canvases.